

Foster Care as a Support to Families, Not a Substitute for Parents

LOOKING TO GIVE MORE

Dave and Jen have been licensed foster parents since 2014. More than a dozen children have lived with them in that time. The family had four of their own children before deciding to become foster parents. They both work in human-service careers. Dave is a pastor, and Jen is a teacher. Despite already giving so much of themselves to their children, Dave's congregants, and Jen's students, they felt they could do more. When one of their foster children needed a permanent home, their family became his adoptive family in 2018. Later that year, the family had a newborn girl placed with them. She initially appeared to be perfectly healthy. However, severe medical complications arose, and they took her to Children's National Medical Center. The family kept vigil with the newborn, making sure she was not alone. For a time, the family feared she might die. Regardless, they made sure to always be by her side. This little girl was never meant to stay with them permanently, but that was not important to them. All they cared about was that she felt loved and safe. Child welfare agencies are always looking for exceptional foster families just like Dave and Jen.



Dave and Jen are a licensed foster family in Montgomery County, MD. To learn more about how to become a foster parent in Montgomery County, visit <https://www.montgomerycountymd.gov/HHS-Program/CYF/CYFFosterCareMeetings.html>.



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